

Next Steps

So far in our exploration of *Why Believe in Christ?* we have covered the following critical topics:

- What you can gain from believing in Christ.
- That the Bible, which is our main source of information, is accurate and trustworthy.
- Who we think the important characters are.
- Why we think Jesus is the main character.
- How your current beliefs might align with believing in Christ (or not).
- Who do you think is in control?
- What a Christ-like life looks like.
- What leads to your salvation (eternal life) and how to have a life filled with Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

With this information in mind, hopefully by now you can answer two questions, “Why would I want to believe in Christ?”, and more importantly, “Am I ready to believe in Christ to gain all of the benefits that come with believing in Him?” But before you answer this last question, let’s quickly summarize what believing in Christ really entails so that you are clear on what such a commitment requires of you. Those commitments can be summarized in eight words:

1. **Love:** In His very brief three plus year ministry on earth, Jesus exemplified many things, but chief among these – the one that stands above all others – was Love. Jesus Christ loved you so much that He was willing to give up His life on the cross to take on your sins and pay the penalty (death) associated with them so that you can, by believing in Him, be welcomed into His Father’s kingdom of heaven. And His Father, our God in heaven, loves you so much, He gave His only begotten Son to pay this price. To walk with Christ, you must be willing to love and forgive all people, just as He and His Father love and will forgive you.
2. **Believe:** You will need to believe in Jesus Christ and His Gospel – that He was God in the flesh, that He died to pay for and forgive your sins, and that He was resurrected on the third day, demonstrating the reality of eternal life for all who believe in Him.
3. **Trust:** You will need to trust in Jesus Christ as your sole Lord and Savior and trust, that with your life in His hands, He will provide for and look after you.
4. **Repent:** You will need to renounce sin, and seek Christ’s righteousness, and allow yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
5. **Keep:** You will need to strive to keep Jesus’ commandments.
6. **Follow:** You will need to strive to follow Jesus’ teachings.
7. **Read:** You will need to read the Bible, preferably a bit every day, so that you remain in God’s Word.
8. **Pray:** You will need to communicate with God/Jesus/The Holy Spirit through prayer. In prayer we humble ourselves before God and also glorify Him. It is also how we communicate our needs to Him even though He already knows them.

We sincerely hope you are ready. In a “yes” answer to the question, “Are you ready to believe in Christ?”, lies your access to an unparalleled quality of life both now and forever.

The Next Steps – If You are Ready

Congratulations! We think you have just made the most important decision in your life. Here is what we recommend you do next to start your new relationship with Christ. If you already have a relationship with Christ, these suggestions might strengthen it:

1. Please finish reading the remaining PDF documents on our website. We also suggest you print out all the documents and put them in a tabbed, three-ring binder for easy reference.
2. Find a Bible that you are comfortable reading. We recommend the *NASB Life Application Study Bible – Updated Edition*, ©2000 by Zondervan, because the type is a bit larger, it has great maps to help you orient yourself, it has excellent summary information, and each page contains helpful explanations of the key verses.

3. Start reading your Bible – slowly and just a little bit at a time. We recommend starting with the Gospels in the New Testament, especially Matthew and John, and then completing the rest of the New Testament. Remember, the New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus and concludes with what we can expect at His Second Coming. In the Old Testament, Genesis and Exodus are rather critical, with the balance of the Old Testament being a lot of fascinating history, the establishment of the Jewish Law, prophecies, and shared wisdom.

Remember: At first, the Bible may appear to be a “tough” read, but practice and familiarity will bring it alive for you. Also, if you have not yet read our PDF document, “[Can I Trust the Bible](#)”, we strongly recommend doing so before you start reading the Bible on your own.

4. It will also help to start reading some of the recommended books. First, *The Hiding Place* (a bestseller and non-fiction accounting of surviving the Nazi occupation of Holland), and then the *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Timelines* (10th Anniversary Expanded Edition. It is very colorful and has great information.)
5. Next, we suggest reviewing some of the recommended YouTube videos. The sermons from Pastor Jim Wallace at Risen King Community Church, the North Coast sermons, and the Lion of Judah videos, are all terrific and available on YouTube. We also recommend viewing the series “The Chosen”, which is a free IOS and Android app. It is beautifully and powerfully presented and shares the ministry of Christ through the eyes of His disciples. “The Chosen” is completely crowd funded, enjoys a 100% score from Rotten Tomatoes, and has garnered over 275 million views while only through its second season.
6. And, of course, you should find a local church to attend. We recommend a small “community church” that relies solely on the Bible for its teachings and instructions. We strongly suggest you stay away from those churches that stray far from Christ’s message, as it is easy to get caught up in all the hysteria and forget that this is all about Christ and your relationship with Him. Also, we suggest you stay away from churches/religions that superimpose their own beliefs on top of what the Bible teaches. Remember, the focus should always be on the Biblical Jesus and His teachings, not on a particular institution or its needs or its non-biblical beliefs. Actually, Christianity is based on these very simple principals:
 - a. **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”** (Mark 12:30)
 - b. **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”** (Mark 12:31)
 - c. **“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”** (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)
 - d. **“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’”** (John 11:25-26)
 - e. **“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”** (John 14:6)
 - f. **“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”** (Hebrews 1:1-2) and
 - g. **“Therefore I [Jesus] said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He [God], you will die in your sins.”** (John 8:24)

If any church asks you to believe in something different, we suggest you look elsewhere.

7. We also suggest you seek out a mentor in your selected church who can help you fully understand the teachings of Scripture and how to maximize the benefits of your relationship with Jesus. This is especially true if you are new to believing in Jesus. A good mentor would be someone who has been in the faith for a while, clearly knows the Bible and follows it, and is committed to abiding in Christ.
8. It is always fun to join a Bible study group – ideally one that focuses on one of the Gospels for your first study. You should always learn to walk before you learn to run, and the Gospels are a great place to start your journey through the Bible. A Bible study group traditionally examines Scripture both slowly and thoroughly.
9. Lastly, we encourage you to decide on what services you can offer your church. The sooner you get into fellowship with other church members and start serving in some capacity, the sooner you will start experiencing the wonders of walking with Christ. Volunteering is a great way to serve and get involved, even if it is something as simple as greeting people at the door.

The Next Steps – If You are not Ready

You know, some people just need more time with a decision as big as this one. If you are one of those people, God bless you for being honest with yourself. Believing in vain is almost worse than not believing at all. We would still recommend reading the rest of the documents posted on our website as well as viewing some of the suggested YouTube videos. You just might find something that really resonates with you. As mentioned above, we also recommend viewing *The Chosen* and reading *The Hiding Place* and the *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Timelines* (10th Anniversary Expanded Edition).

If You Decide You are Clearly not Interested in Believing in Christ

In today's fast-paced, highly technological, and science-focused secular world, it is really easy to pass on Christ. If this is where you are, just know, you are not alone. But we simply pose three questions that we ask you to give some serious and meaningful thought:

1. Do you really think that even with all of our science and technology at work in our world, that our world is going so great we couldn't benefit from a bit more spiritual guidance from someone as loving as Jesus Christ? From what we witness, most people think our world is going to hell in a basket; and with that, we rest our case.
2. Next, we suggest you ask yourself, "Is my life really that great that I don't need any help?" Hey, if the answer is "yes", well, more power to you. You are among the very rare.
3. Are you really too busy to have a better life?

There is no better time than now to become a believer.

If you are not ready now, but should you change your mind later, or if somewhere down the road life throws a monkey wrench into your great life and you find yourself in great distress, just know that the arms of Jesus are always open. That is, of course, unless you die a non-believer – at which point it will be too late. While salvation comes through God's grace alone, it is only through a person's faith and belief in His Son Jesus Christ during this lifetime, that God's gift of salvation can be accepted.

Where People Can Be in Their Relationship with Christ

Salvation Is Not Available For

Demons

Someone possessed with evil spirits



Non-Believers

Normal person who does not believe in God, the Bible, or Jesus Christ



Nominal Believers

Someone who believes in God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ but more through an agreement with facts, and not with faith and good deeds

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Note: A Nominal Believer is not likely saved



Salvation and Living a Life Filled With Fruit of the Holy Spirit Are Available For

Believers

Someone who believes in God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ with an abiding, enduring, and repentant faith

And

Who believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was God in the flesh

And

Who believes Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for their sins

And

That He was resurrected on the third day

And

Who has truly repented

And

Who has accepted Jesus as their sole Lord and Savior

And

Who has fully put their life in God's hands

Who

Are Committed To

1. Loving the Lord their God with all their strength, heart, mind and soul and loving one another as Jesus loves us;
2. Becoming a new, repentant being in Christ;
3. Seeking Christ's righteousness;
4. Being in God's Word (the Bible) on a frequent and consistent basis;
5. Being in prayer on a frequent and consistent basis;
6. Being habitually and vitally related to a local church;
7. Being willing to share the Gospel with others;
8. Being faithful to complete whatever they commit to do.

Always understanding that we are a work in progress, relying on God and His Holy Spirit to guide and assist us in our efforts to be more like Christ.